

## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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In the Matter of:ACCIDENT OF THE LADY D  
ON MARCH 6, 2004  
in Baltimore, Maryland

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Docket No. DCA 04 MM015

Monday,  
March 8, 2004

INTERVIEW OF:

ROBERT WILLIAMS  
JULIA LAUER

PRESENT:

MORGAN J. TURRELL, NTSB  
MARIETTE BURER  
ANDREW MURRAY  
SCOTT BURNOWSKI  
TREVOR COWEN

## P R O C E E D I N G S

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MR. TURRELL: Good

morning. It is Tuesday, March 9. We are in the Naval Reserve Center interviewing passengers from the water taxi accident on Saturday March 6.

My name is Morgan Turrell of the NTSB. And to my left are investigators?

MS. BURER: Mariette Burer, NTSB.

LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: Lieutenant Scott Burnowski, Sector Baltimore, Coast Guard.

ENSIGN COWEN: Ensign Trevor Cowen, Sector Baltimore, Coast Guard.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Dwight Schneider, Baltimore City Fire Department, Deputy Chief of Operations.

MR. TURRELL: Thank you. And if the witness would just go ahead and say your name and spell it for us, please.

MR. WILLIAMS: Robert Williams, R-O-B-E-R-T, Williams, W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S.

MS. LAUER: And Julia, J-U-L-I-A, Lauer, L-A-U-E-R.

MR. TURRELL: Okay. And Robert, how old are you?

MR. WILLIAMS: Thirty five.

1 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And Julia?

2 MS. LAUER: Thirty.

3 MR. TURRELL: And we will ask you your name  
4 and telephone off the record. Okay.

5 Robert, let me start with you. Can you tell  
6 us how you ended up in Baltimore on Saturday and what  
7 you were doing?

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure, sure, we live in  
9 Baltimore.

10 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: We decided to go to Baltimore's  
12 Inner Harbor and eat lunch there.

13 MR. TURRELL: And can you tell us, tell me,  
14 Robert, a little bit about your background, just in  
15 broad strokes, your background, and say what you do  
16 now?

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure, sure. Financial analyst  
18 for local corporation called AeroTech. Undergraduate  
19 from Towson University, Master's in Finance from the  
20 University of Baltimore. I have been with the company  
21 going on two years.

22 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And Julia?

23 MS. LAUER: I have my Associate Degree from  
24 Essex Community College and South University. And just  
25 basically started my own business.

1 MR. TURRELL: And that business is?

2 MS. LAUER: Julia Brace, LLC.

3 MR. TURRELL: And what is the nature of the  
4 business?

5 MS. LAUER: Oh, it is a line of children  
6 clothing.

7 MR. TURRELL: Okay. How is that doing?

8 MS. LAUER: It just started, so, it is okay.

9 MR. TURRELL: Good.

10 MS. LAUER: Seems to be pretty good.

11 MR. TURRELL: Good.

12 Julia, can you tell me about this Saturday,  
13 just start out when, Saturday morning, just tell us  
14 about the day and leading up to taking the water taxi  
15 and what happened.

16 MS. LAUER: We were just got up --

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Can I interrupt real quick,  
18 Morgan?

19 MR. TURRELL: Sure,

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Erica, our first point of  
21 contact told us it would be helpful to just kind of  
22 write what happened down and we each have our own  
23 versions here. No speculation whatsoever per Erica.

24 MR. TURRELL: You can use your notes.

25 MS. LAUER: Okay.

1 MR. TURRELL: Feel free to take your time.

2 MS. LAUER: Just trying to decide what to do  
3 for the day, decided to go to the Harbor for lunch.

4 Went down, walked around trying to find a place to eat.

5 Had lunch at the barbecue place, and then afterwards  
6 we just kind of were walking around a little bit trying  
7 to decide what to do next. And saw the water taxi  
8 there, stopped at the first one, which was blue, with  
9 the blue awning and asked them about if they went to  
10 Fort McHenry, because we had decided we hadn't been  
11 there in 20 years or so and that would be a fun thing  
12 to do. And they, actually Bob was the one who talked  
13 to him, you know, he said that they take us, they drop  
14 us off and it would be a 25 minute walk and I didn't  
15 want to do that. So, we stopped the second one, which  
16 was right next to it and they said they would take us  
17 right there. And then we decided that that is what we  
18 would do. And they were leaving almost immediately,  
19 so, we paid and got on.

20 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

21 MS. LAUER: Then sat down and, and the woman  
22 was very nice, I think her name was Hilary, the lady  
23 that talked to everybody, you know, and she did tell  
24 us, you know, where the safety jackets were under the  
25 seats, and the child's jackets were in the front. And,

1       this was, you know, while we were pulling away. And  
2       stamped our hands, took the tickets, you know, during  
3       the ride. And then we arrived at Fells Point to get  
4       the second boat.

5                   MR. TURRELL: Okay.

6                   MS. LAUER: This is where I started writing  
7       things down.

8                   We sat for a couple of minutes, you know, on  
9       the second boat, got on and there were more people  
10      coming. When everybody was on, there was two, there  
11      was a driver, the older man and then a taller man  
12      standing up and he was the one that was talking to us.

13      And he was nice, kidding around and stuff, you know,  
14      he kind, he just kind of asked everybody have you had  
15      your hands stamped, and we were all kind of like, yeah,  
16      and that was it, you know. He didn't give us any  
17      safety instructions. When everybody was going, you  
18      know, when we started to leave, he was kind of bouncing  
19      around. I remember him having a hard time getting out,  
20      you know, kind of, because we kept banging up against  
21      the pier a few times and he was having a hard time  
22      turning around.

23                   On the way out, I remember telling Bob, you  
24      know, I commented about, you know, it was kind of  
25      choppy. And, we left the boat. They told us, I don't

1 remember time he said, you know, but I remember, you  
2 know, he was, a couple of people were asking what time  
3 we should come back to get the boat, all I remember is  
4 somebody said that was the last boat back to Fells  
5 Point. We went in, saw the movie at Fort McHenry. And  
6 then we walked around outside for a little while, you  
7 know, it was really windy walking around. I commented  
8 on that. And we got to the picnic table area to wait  
9 for the boat, a little early. We were the first ones  
10 there. We were worried about getting a ticket. We had  
11 parked in the meter parking.

12 There was the guy, I remember, the only other  
13 guy there was the man with the walkie talkie, sitting,  
14 kind of away from us. And then others slowly started  
15 to come by. Bob had mentioned to me that, you know,  
16 after were more people were there, Bob had said  
17 something, you know, he saw lighting, he mentioned to  
18 me.

19 I remember the boat coming back. I remember  
20 as I was getting on the boat, I remember I could see  
21 the storm to my left, and I saw lighting. I got on the  
22 boat. We waited for the guy on the walkie talkie, they  
23 were talking back and forth because there were more  
24 people coming and he asked if there were more people  
25 and he said, yeah, there are a few more people. I

1       remember him saying something that, about two more, we  
2       can take two more.

3               MR. TURRELL: Okay.

4               MS. LAUER: And when everybody got on the  
5       boat, we started pulling away, I saw another, some more  
6       lighting. It seemed like as soon as, it seems, it  
7       seemed quickly, as soon as we pulled out, it started  
8       raining and, and the wind picked up, fairly quickly.  
9       That was probably, it took me, I am sorry.

10              (Pause.)

11              MS. BURER: Take your time.

12              MR. TURRELL: Let's take a second here. We  
13       will start the interview just for a moment.

14              (Off the record.)

15              MR. TURRELL: Okay. We will resume the  
16       interview with Julia Lauer.

17              Julia, if you would just continue there,  
18       where the wind was picking up and --

19              MS. LAUER: Okay. It started raining and the  
20       wind was picking up. Bobby turned to me and held by  
21       the shoulders, he just knew and he said he had a  
22       feeling and just looked at me and said, you know, this  
23       isn't good. Looked around, you know, he opened up the  
24       window to see how the windows worked, you know, and  
25       familiar surroundings, because this isn't a good



1 situation.

2 And it just seemed like almost immediately  
3 the boat had hit one way, I don't remember which way.

4 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

5 MS. LAUER: I mean, it hit heavily. And I  
6 don't, I know it hit once or twice before we hit --

7 (Pause.)

8 MR. TURRELL: That was a PA announcement,  
9 disregard that.

10 MS. LAUER: Okay.

11 MR. TURRELL: So the boat shook heavily.

12 MS. LAUER: Right. And I remember the first  
13 time, I think it must have been twice, because the  
14 first time we kind of stood up because we were all kind  
15 of nervous and looking around, you know, not knowing  
16 what to do and I remember, and I don't know if it was  
17 the captain, I just remember it being from the front,  
18 somebody said, you know, sit back down. And then I  
19 think it hit the second time because that is when we  
20 all stood up and I heard somebody kind of agree with  
21 what we were doing, you know, like, I don't know, like  
22 encouragement to compensate for, you know, because it  
23 hit a little heavier. And then just all I remember is  
24 just it hitting, hitting the water, the noise.

25 And we were thrown, you know, I remember

1 being thrown to that side, water started coming in  
2 fast. I was submerged at one point and I remember  
3 getting up and kind, I mean, it was kind of like,  
4 something like that, I remember getting up, and you  
5 know, there was, I was half submerged. I remember  
6 getting some air and seeing like the floor kind of  
7 sideways, you know, or side. And then I was completely  
8 submerged and just trying to feel my way out and I  
9 remember, you know, just feeling for something that  
10 slide, you know, the windows. And then I got knocked  
11 around again and I had gotten something, that I thought  
12 that had moved and I don't know, I think, I got knocked  
13 away. And then I just kept grabbing and the next thing  
14 I know, I was out and I came up.

15 MR. TURRELL: Okay. So you were knocked out or  
16 you were out of the boat?

17 MS. LAUER: I was out of the boat. I remember  
18 going through just an opening, and fast. And then I  
19 came out of the water.

20 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Do you remember  
21 specifically where you were sitting on the boat?

22 MS. LAUER: I was, well, I drew it.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

24 MS. LAUER: This is the captain sitting on  
25 that side and the door, and that young couple here, and

1       that was, I was here.

2               MR. TURRELL: Okay. Do you recall when you  
3       came onboard the boat, the first time, anyone --

4               MS. LAUER: The first boat?

5               MR. TURRELL: No, did you ride this boat  
6       twice, this particular boat twice, the same crew or  
7       were you on this boat only once?

8               MS. LAUER: We were that boat on the way out  
9       to Fort McHenry.

10              MR. TURRELL: Okay. So you had the same crew,  
11      same boat.

12              MS. LAUER: Yes.

13              MR. TURRELL: Twice.

14              MS. LAUER: Yes.

15              MR. TURRELL: On the first trip, did anyone  
16      give you, tell you to where the life jackets were or  
17      was it just obvious to you?

18              MS. LAUER: From the Harbor to Fells Point?

19              MR. TURRELL: Yes.

20              MS. LAUER: Yes, she did tell us.

21              MR. TURRELL: On the second trip from Fells  
22      Point to the Fort.

23              MS. LAUER: No, he did not tell us.

24              MR. TURRELL: Okay. Did you see anywhere, any  
25      posting of a safety placard or some sort of safety

1 instructions?

2 MS. LAUER: I don't remember.

3 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Do you remember seeing any  
4 children on the boat and where they may have been?

5 MS. LAUER: Yes. The three children were kind  
6 of, across from me, over to the right. They weren't  
7 the last ones to the front. There were, I think three  
8 men, three, you know, I am not positive but I think  
9 there were three men in the front and then the three  
10 children and then the mother.

11 MR. TURRELL: Great. So, they were on the  
12 left side of the boat, well, more than halfway forward.

13 MS. LAUER: Yes.

14 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

15 MS. LAUER: I think the little boy was between  
16 his sisters, you know.

17 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

18 MS. LAUER: The little boy.

19 MR. TURRELL: And do you recall, can you  
20 estimate the speed just before the boat turned, do you  
21 recall the captain had stopped moving forward, do you  
22 recall if the boat was, during that time when the boat  
23 was rocking, did you recall any sense that he changed  
24 the speed?

25 MS. LAUER: I don't remember.

1                   MR. TURRELL: Okay. And do you recall the  
2 first time the boat starting rocking and started  
3 tipping, did anyone move in the boat, you said people  
4 moved to one side?

5                   MS. LAUER: Yeah.

6                   MR. TURRELL: Do you recall which side they  
7 moved from to?

8                   MS. LAUER: Kind of stood up, you know,  
9 because it was just, you know, I just remember standing  
10 up.

11                  MR. TURRELL: Okay.

12                  MS. LAUER: And kind of holding onto a bar,  
13 kind of holding on, you know, kind of looking, you  
14 know, looking for some direction.

15                  MR. TURRELL: Okay.

16                  Marianne?

17                  MS. BURER: Would you be able to take us from  
18 when you popped up out of the water, and the rescue  
19 part of it?

20                  MS. LAUER: Yes. I came up and you know, I  
21 had to catch my breath, you know, and looked around a  
22 little bit. And I remember there was, I remember being  
23 someone, I don't know who, someone kind of to my left,  
24 one person, the boat seemed maybe a little bit closer,  
25 and I seen life jackets kind of floating around. And

1       then, you know,, so I just got myself together, swam to  
2       the boat, and started yelling for them to pull me in.  
3       Again, I don't, I was disoriented, I don't know who,  
4       you know, I, I got in and then instantly started  
5       looking for him. And there were some people between us  
6       and then, you know, then I saw him. And then I  
7       remember seeing the little girl, just crying. And there  
8       were some people still in the water, holding on. And  
9       then I just remember, I noticed, and I don't know who  
10      it was, I think, I think it was the guy standing up,  
11      not the guy driving, but the other --

12               MR. TURRELL: The mate?

13               MS. LAUER: Yes.

14               MR. TURRELL: Okay.

15               MS. LAUER: He was just floating around in the  
16      water. I thought he was dead. So, I helped another  
17      man pull him out and I just kind of leaned up against  
18      the side, you know, and tried to just hold his head out  
19      of the water and some other guy, I think resuscitated  
20      him. And he opened his eyes, and we just tried to keep  
21      his head out of water and then somebody else held him.  
22      And then I remember seeing a young man kind of, I don't  
23      know if he had gotten bad in the water or, you know, I  
24      remember seeing somebody just trying to feel under, you  
25      know, he had a brown, like a, you know, that shape, the

1 circle life preserver.

2 And then, I don't really, I just saw kind of  
3 from there, it is kind of a blur. And just kind of  
4 looked around and, and then I, you know, my next memory  
5 is the men coming in the boat. And it was still really  
6 choppy. And they had a hard time getting close to us,  
7 and they threw a rope and Bobby and, they were trying  
8 to get the rope and he held, you know, trying to pull  
9 them near us. And we were yelling just that there were  
10 children still in there. And one man jumped in, and he  
11 almost, he almost got, I mean, the boat started coming  
12 together and he had gone under and come up and you  
13 know, the boat started coming together and he almost  
14 got crushed. And somehow, you know, it came apart.  
15 And, you know, I don't really remember. The next thing  
16 I remember is just, you know, after a few minutes  
17 getting, they helped us get on the boat and just, I was  
18 just huddled with the mother and the little girl,  
19 another man. And then I just was covered up. I just  
20 wasn't watching, I just remember them, you know,  
21 hearing them talking about it. I remember them pulling  
22 the other little girl out after awhile and I saw her.  
23 And then my next memory is leaving and knowing that  
24 they hadn't found the little boy yet and the mother was  
25 just crying for him.

1 MS. BURER: How far were you from the boat, as  
2 far as swimming to the boat, back to the boat?

3 MS. LAUER: Probably, it was somewhere in  
4 between the end of this first table and the end of the  
5 two tables, somewhere in between that.

6 MS. BURER: Okay. Okay. How long do you think  
7 it was, or can you estimate the times between when you  
8 were actually on the boat, when you saw the rescue and  
9 when you transferred to the rescue boat?

10 MS. LAUER: I am guessing 15 minutes.

11 MS. BURER: Okay.

12 MS. LAUER: Twenty minutes, somewhere between,  
13 you know, somewhere between that.

14 MS. BURER: Okay. Do you consider yourself a  
15 good swimmer?

16 MS. LAUER: Yes.

17 MS. BURER: Okay. Do you have a background  
18 with -- Okay. And do you remember what kind of injuries  
19 you sustained?

20 MS. LAUER: I, after the fact, you know, I was  
21 so shaken up, I didn't feel anything, but, yeah, I have  
22 bruises up and down my legs.

23 MS. BURER: Okay.

24 MS. LAUER: The fact is I feel like a bruise  
25 on my sterna and sore muscles.



1 MS. BURER: Okay.

2 MS. LAUER: Sore throat, a couple of bumps on  
3 my head.

4 MS. BURER: When you were actually on the  
5 rescue boat, do you remember how long actually, or  
6 would you estimate the time that it took from the  
7 rescue boat to here, to where you got on land?

8 MS. LAUER: Well, like I said, we did stay for  
9 awhile on there.

10 MS. BURER: Right.

11 MS. LAUER: While they were still looking for  
12 and I remember hearing them say that they were going to  
13 try to life the boat up with their thing that came down  
14 the back.

15 MS. BURER: Okay.

16 MS. LAUER: But, again, I was covered up, I  
17 didn't see -- You know, I really don't know.

18 MS. BURER: Okay.

19 MS. LAUER: Five, ten minutes, ten minutes, I  
20 don't know.

21 MS. BURER: Okay.

22 MS. LAUER: I am not real positive about that.

23 MS. BURER: And when you arrived here, were  
24 rescue people waiting, the ambulances and --

25 MS. LAUER: The ambulances were out, they took

1       us right in the building. They were all very, very  
2       nice. They were trying to help us get warm and --

3               MS. BURER: Okay.

4               MS. LAUER: And change our clothes and calm us  
5       down.

6               MS. BURER: Thank you.

7               MR. TURRELL: Scott Burnowski.

8               LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: When you leaving Fort  
9       McHenry on the water taxi, was there any type of  
10      communication by the captain or mate just prior to the  
11      weather, what type of communications they had?

12              MS. LAUER: Between the two of them?

13              LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: Between the two of  
14      them, yes.

15              MS. LAUER: I don't remember. I mean, I  
16      wasn't paying attention.

17              LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: How about between the  
18      passengers and --

19              MS. LAUER: No.

20              LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: Okay. The life jackets,  
21      the locations of that, do you remember where they were  
22      located?

23              MS. LAUER: When we left Fort McHenry? No. We  
24      weren't told.

25              LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: Okay. And your location

1 on the vessel, you said there was a couple to your  
2 left, I guess.

3 MS. LAUER: Yes.

4 LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: Was it just two people,  
5 or were there more than two people?

6 MS. LAUER: There was just two to our left.

7 LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: Two.

8 MS. LAUER: He was next to me, on my left and  
9 then the young man and his fiancée, I think it was.

10 LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: Okay.

11 MR. TURRELL: Trevor Cowen.

12 ENSIGN COWEN: After you guys got onboard, and  
13 you noticed the weather was getting bad and, the  
14 captain was headed back towards Fells Point, do you  
15 remember him making drastic maneuvers or anything like  
16 that?

17 MS. LAUER: As far as him driving?

18 ENSIGN COWEN: Yes, sort of, him operating the  
19 vessel?

20 MS. LAUER: I remember leaving, I remember the  
21 rain starting and it just seemed like, it didn't really  
22 seem like a lot of time, seconds before, you know, it  
23 started, you know, I just remember the first time it  
24 started tipping, you know, that seemed like when he was  
25 trying to do something. I don't, you know, I just

1       remember him, I do remember him saying something along  
2       the lines of going, something about the wind or driving  
3       into the wind, I don't know exactly what it was.

4                ENSIGN COWEN: Okay.

5                MR. TURRELL: Chief?

6                CHIEF SCHNEIDER: I am trying to establish the  
7       direction you were traveling once you left here, the  
8       Fort and proceeded to Fells Point. How far about or  
9       how was is --

10               (Pause.)

11               CHIEF SCHNEIDER: -- once you left the Fort  
12       and at what point were you at when you started to come  
13       back down. I understand you started to come back down  
14       the Bay and then maneuver to the left.

15               MS. LAUER: I don't remember. I mean, I, all  
16       I remember is, I think there was like the boat on the  
17       side, like when we came in, and it seemed like there  
18       was that boat here, and as soon as we, I just remember  
19       as soon as we passed that boat, which, you know, only a  
20       few feet, it started raining and the wind picked up. I  
21       remember, and it didn't seem like five minutes. It  
22       seemed like, it just seemed like really fast with the  
23       first hit. That is how I remember it. So, again, I  
24       wasn't looking, you know, I was facing the back, I was  
25       facing him. I don't know, that is all I remember.

1 CHIEF SCHNEIDER: We are just trying to  
2 establish a point at which, you know, when the vessel  
3 first turned over, so we could concentrate our efforts  
4 in that area for --

5 MS. LAUER: The boat turned over completely?

6 CHIEF SCHNEIDER: Yes.

7 MS. LAUER: It seemed quick to me, but, again,  
8 you know, it was windy and we had already tipped which  
9 I think was twice before that and we were kind of  
10 driving, you know, kind of driving, circling. It just,  
11 it is hard to say, I don't really know.

12 MR. TURRELL: Anyone else?

13 (Pause.)

14 MR. TURRELL: Is there anything you would like  
15 to perhaps say, to jog your memory, perhaps you would  
16 like to say?

17 MS. LAUER: No, I think that is, that is all I  
18 remember.

19 MR. TURRELL: Okay. We will go ahead and start  
20 talking to Robert. This is Robert Williams. He was  
21 also a passenger. And Robert, perhaps you could tell  
22 us a little bit about your boating experience and  
23 boating background.

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. I don't have any  
25 personal boating experience or boating background at

1 all.

2 MR. TURRELL: Okay. Do you have any like  
3 scuba diving or swimming experience?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Just recreational swimming, not  
5 scuba training at all, never, never have done that.

6 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And go ahead and just tell  
7 us in your own words, sir, that afternoon, what  
8 happened.

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

10 MR. TURRELL: And feel free to your use notes.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. A lot of this will be  
12 repetitive.

13 MR. TURRELL: Sure.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: We started the day at Baltimore  
15 Inner Harbor. We had lunch. We had intended to go to  
16 the museum but while we were having lunch the sun came  
17 out and we decided it would be nice to go over and see  
18 Fort McHenry. So, we did. We tried the first water  
19 taxi company and Julia wasn't interested in taking the  
20 25 minute walk from, I think Tide Point they said they  
21 would drop us, so we started walking along the Harbor  
22 and we, there was another vessel there that was  
23 traveling, so we asked them if they went to Fort  
24 McHenry and they said they did. They dropped us right  
25 off there. We would just have to change boats at Fells

1 Point. This was the last boat, or this boat was  
2 leaving and it had to kind of be now. So, we decided  
3 to go for it. And the lady running the operation from  
4 the Inner Harbor was very nice. She gave us all a talk  
5 before we left and came over and personally, personally  
6 spoke with Julia and I about how to go about getting,  
7 moving onto Fort McHenry. And, yes, she was very  
8 helpful lady.

9 And so we went off without any incident at  
10 all, a nice smooth trip to Fells Point, where we  
11 immediately boarded another boat. It seemed to be a  
12 smaller boat down, down the steps, a walk down towards  
13 the water a little bit, we boarded that boat. My  
14 recollection leaving that, that pier was that the  
15 captain did for some reason or other struggle to get  
16 the boat out of port. He maybe even had stalled the  
17 engine at some point. But, we were off, and towards  
18 Fort McHenry.

19 We got to the Fort, I guess in the area of  
20 2:30, where we first went into the center and we  
21 watched the movie and then we left that visitor's  
22 center and we just kind of walked around the entire  
23 Fort McHenry in a very noticeably windy day. At some  
24 points it was windy enough that if you were walking  
25 into the wind, you really had to make an effort to

1 walk.

2 But, I have a pretty good time line of events  
3 because my car is parked at Baltimore's Inner Harbor in  
4 a pay parking meter. So, I guess around 3:30, I didn't  
5 know if boats continuously work going back and forth  
6 between Fells Point, but I was a little nervous about  
7 getting a parking ticket. So, I decided that maybe we  
8 should try and get back and so we went down to the area  
9 where the picnic tables are, right out here.  
10 We were the first two people there and we got down  
11 there about 3:35 or so.

12 When we got down there, there was just Julia  
13 and I and a gentleman with a walkie talkie and he was  
14 occasionally speaking to someone and I figured he was  
15 somehow related to the operation. And I guess around  
16 3:45 and I continuously was looking at my cell phone at  
17 the time because I was anxious to get going back to  
18 Fells Point. Around 3:45, there was now a fair number  
19 of people there with us waiting for the boat. And I  
20 recognized just about all of them from the, from the  
21 trip to Fort McHenry. In that same, 3:45, 3:50, I  
22 noticed that the skies were darkening over the sky line  
23 of the Inner Harbor. And just as I was noticing that,  
24 a gentleman, he also noticed it and pointed it out to  
25 the man with the walkie talkie, and he, he was



1       inquiring when was the boat leaving. And I remember  
2       the gentleman with the walkie talkie saying it was  
3       probably going to be another 10 minutes or so. And  
4       that is again, when I took my cell phone out to look at  
5       the time to see if we would make back in time for me to  
6       put some more money in that meter.

7               I see, it is 3:45, 3:50, I see lighting and I  
8       am, Julie is really paying no attention at all. She is  
9       playing with the squirrels and I just, I kind of point  
10      out that it is lighting now over the Inner Harbor and  
11      she kind of looks and that was about it. At 3:55 to  
12      four o'clock, the storm had, had, the early portions of  
13      the storm had already begun and we boarded the boat.  
14      Again, 3:55 to four o'clock, again, as I continued to  
15      look at the time, nervous about getting back, I heard  
16      some communication between the first mate and what I am  
17      going to just assume is the gentleman with the walkie  
18      talkie, who was out at the picnic tables. And he asked  
19      if the boat is full and the crew's response, not yet.

20               (Pause.)

21              MR. WILLIAMS: The crew's response, the boat  
22      is not full, we can take probably two more. And the  
23      gentleman with the walkie talkie says, well, there are  
24      six people coming, but, I will just send two of them  
25      onto the boat. And a minute or so went by, and two

1 gentlemen boarded the boat last, not at the same time.

2 If I remember correctly, they boarded one after the  
3 other.

4 (Pause.)

5 MR. TURRELL: Go ahead.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. If memory serves it was  
7 two gentlemen, one was wearing a batman tee shirt and  
8 they both had dark, dark hair. They were the last two  
9 guys to get on the boat.

10 Julie and I were, were near the back of the  
11 boat as she stated with two people next to us. A girl  
12 was at the every end of the boat, a gentleman was next  
13 to me and then it was me and then Julie. I don't know  
14 who was sitting next to Julie. So, at four, four to  
15 4:05, four o'clock, we left. We left for Fells Point.

16 As soon as, my recollection is as soon as we  
17 began to leave port from Fort McHenry, it was, there  
18 was, there was almost an immediate struggle to, we were  
19 on course but it wasn't, it wasn't a routine, I could  
20 tell this was not just a routine trip to Fells Point.  
21 I knew that it was not going to be. We weren't, we  
22 weren't very far away from the port at all when I, the  
23 chop was pretty severe, and I just really from that  
24 point, kind of went into a different mode and that is  
25 when I talked to Julie about what potentially could

1       happen as far as how the windows operated and I told  
2       her to, to seriously look around the boat and  
3       understand where we might have to try and exit from  
4       this boat.

5               And then I am not, maybe 30 seconds later,  
6       the captain really started struggling with control of  
7       the boat and that is when I remember it starting to  
8       rock back and forth. I am not, I am not sure how many  
9       times. My recollection is that the captain is now  
10      really struggling to control the boat and I know we  
11      started to do some type of circle. What his intentions  
12      were, I am not sure, maybe he was trying to go back to,  
13      it seemed to me that we were turning around, but we  
14      were going in a circular motion. And the last thing I  
15      remember hearing is the first mate, he said that the  
16      captain, he announced to us that the captain had shut  
17      the motors down and he had decided to just let the wind  
18      take us, ride it, some type of reference, that we were  
19      just going to ride out, ride out with the wind and that  
20      the engines were shut down.

21             Almost immediately, that is when the boat  
22      stood up, our side started to sink into the water, and  
23      the boat stood up, stood up on the other side. I also,  
24      I do remember now what Julie said, first we kind of  
25      stood up and we were told to get back in our seats.

1       That was prior to when the captain was struggling for  
2       control, right after the announcement that he had, we  
3       were going to just ride out the storm and the wind.  
4       The boat sunk on our, started to sink on our end and  
5       raised up on the other end and a gentleman, I have no  
6       idea who this was, asked us all on our side to try and  
7       compensate and go to the far wall in an effort to get  
8       the boat back down and I did and I thought, it looked  
9       to me like just about everyone who was able to, was  
10      over on that far wall now, standing, hoping that the  
11      boat would right itself.

12               Seconds later, we were all pushed back  
13      against the wall that Julie and I were previously  
14      sitting against, we were just forced back there. I  
15      imagine that we started to just tip back the other way  
16      and that impacted against those windows and the benches  
17      where we were sitting was substantial. I remember  
18      screaming because I had, I had taken the bunt on my  
19      right angle, and it was, I know that impact was, was  
20      significant. Then the boat, that is when the boat  
21      turned over.

22               Almost immediately, I have lost complete, I  
23      just remember it being dark, I don't remember, I took  
24      a, I took a breath as we were turning and anticipated  
25      being in the water, and I remember what I had, I had

1 already planned potentially for this to happen, so, I  
2 knew what I wanted to do. So, I remember being  
3 disoriented when the boat flipped and it quickly filled  
4 up with water. How much, I don't know, I remember not  
5 trying to breath because I thought it was possible that  
6 we were completely under water. Almost immediately, I  
7 was able to grab one of the windows and slide it open,  
8 and instead of, instead of going right through the  
9 window, I think maybe some other people in my area  
10 maybe noticed that there was an opening there and I  
11 remember just kind of being knocked away from that. I  
12 remember feeling people going for the window that I had  
13 just opened and, and I had been bounced, bounced from  
14 it. And so, I thought it best to just assist whoever  
15 was in my way out that, out that, so, I could then exit  
16 that same area and, unfortunately, there was another  
17 shift in the boat, and I was pushed away from that  
18 window that I had planned to, that I had opened. I  
19 know I am the one that opened it and, and I was pushed  
20 away from that. And again, my head is hitting, my head  
21 is hitting something, I don't know if it is the floor,  
22 but, at this point I am trying to gasp for some air and  
23 I am taking water into my lungs. But, I continue, like  
24 Julie did, just, because I knew how the windows worked  
25 and I just was pulling everything in an effort to slide

1     it, and something, something did slide open. I swam  
2     through it. I remember when I was swimming through it,  
3     I was just hoping that on the other side of whatever I  
4     had just gone through, I was hoping that my head  
5     wouldn't hit something else, because I was, you know, I  
6     didn't have much left and my head popped into the  
7     harbor, too. I guess, same as Julie indicated, the  
8     length of these two tables, which looks to be about 15  
9     feet away from the boat, and I was, I was able without  
10    too much difficulty to get back, swim back to the boat.

11                   (Pause.)

12                   MR. WILLIAMS: When I got back to the boat, as  
13    far as being in the water, holding onto it, there were  
14    several people on top of the boat already. There was a  
15    gentleman right, I was, I was probably near the portion  
16    of the boat where the engine was, and there was a  
17    gentleman on the boat disoriented, who I had to shout  
18    to several times to get his attention to help me onto  
19    the boat. I couldn't seem to get up there by myself  
20    and he did. I was also able to spot Julie in the  
21    position that she earlier said that she was in, about  
22    12 feet away from the boat, but I remember her being,  
23    she was, she was, we had separated, she was I guess  
24    near the front of the boat, but I knew that she had  
25    made it out of the boat. And so, once the gentleman

1 pulled me onboard, I ran over to ensure Julie's safety  
2 and some gentleman had pulled her out. And that is  
3 when we started talking about, we were quite certain  
4 that there was people still inside in the cabin.

5 I pulled out my cell phone, and some other  
6 people, whoever did have a cell phone, I didn't witness  
7 this, but people were talking about cell phones and I  
8 pulled mine out. It was not powered and I tried to  
9 power it on because my intentions were to call 9-1-1,  
10 but, I didn't get any power. I remember there was,  
11 now there were a couple of life, life rafts or not  
12 rafts, circular type life preservers.

13 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: In the harbor, and I remember  
15 one gentleman had grabbed one and he, he was, he was  
16 commenting that can we get the people out of the, and  
17 out of the cabin that were still in there. We all, I  
18 remember, I remember several people had joined hands  
19 and said the Lord's Prayer on the, of the people that  
20 were on top of the boat. I vividly remember an older  
21 lady being one of the people that was saying it.

22 We weren't quite sure what to do at this  
23 point, so, we, I started just kind of waving my arms  
24 over top of my head to the shore, just maybe trying to,  
25 trying to get somebody's attention that we were in

1       distress and we needed help immediately. And I am  
2       going, my estimation is 10 minutes until we saw the  
3       Navy ship coming. And they arrived on the scene and  
4       the storm seemed to be full, full blown at this point  
5       because they were really, it was really a struggle for  
6       them to get their ship near our boat. They put the  
7       ramp down in the front and we got close for a second  
8       there, and that is when they threw the rope and their  
9       intention was to throw the rope around the engine of  
10      the upside down boat. And we got it around, but then  
11      the chop in the water and the wind, we separated again  
12      and we lost, we lost the tie around the, I don't think  
13      we ever really got it tied around the engine, but that  
14      was everyone's intention.

15               Me and another gentleman, at least and it  
16      might have been two other gentlemen.

17               (Pause.)

18               MR. WILLIAMS: It might have been two other  
19      gentlemen. Now, we are just trying to hold onto the  
20      rope and pull, pull back towards the Navy ship and in  
21      not much, in not much time after that we were close  
22      enough where it looked like we were going to be able to  
23      make it onboard. There was a gentleman that, that just  
24      dove from the deck into the water because we were all  
25      telling them that there were people trapped inside.



1 And there was one gentleman that was first into the  
2 water, incredibly brave, trying to get down into the  
3 boat, and as Julie said, his, his, he came into harm's  
4 way as he got caught between the two boats now. And,  
5 well, I mean, he was close to getting, getting stuck  
6 between the boats, but there was a separation.

7 Once they pulled us safely, I don't recall  
8 them tying the boat to their boat. I suppose they  
9 probably did, but, I don't recall that, I just remember  
10 Navy officers now just pulling us, pulling the people  
11 from the capsized boat, up the ramp to safety on deck.

12 MR. TURRELL: Okay. We also have Andrew Murray  
13 from Seaport Taxi, and he has joined the interview.

14 I have a few questions here. When the boat  
15 was turning, and this was just before the boat turned  
16 over, do you recall which way the boat was turning?

17 MR. WILLIAMS: I do, but, I will tell you  
18 that, you know, I was already, you know, kind of panic  
19 about what potentially was going to happen. I remember  
20 going in a circle, that would be clockwise. We were on  
21 course to Fells Point and I remember making a clockwise  
22 circle.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. This is after leaving the  
24 Fort, you were making a clockwise circle.

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

1                   MR. TURRELL: And you mentioned about the  
2 captain or someone mentioned they were going to shut  
3 the engines down.

4                   MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

5                   MR. TURRELL: And just let the wind take them.  
6 Did you notice a change in sound, did you notice there  
7 was any change in the sound of the engine?

8                   MR. WILLIAMS: No. No. I just remembered  
9 thinking to myself, if that was going to be the right  
10 way to get out of trouble and I was hopeful that it  
11 was. Again, knowing nothing about boating or, had no  
12 idea.

13                  MR. TURRELL: You heard the discussion, but,  
14 you actually did hear any sounds to verify that they  
15 had done that?

16                  MR. WILLIAMS: No.

17                  MR. TURRELL: Okay.

18                  MR. WILLIAMS: No.

19                  MR. TURRELL: And what injuries did you  
20 sustain?

21                  MR. WILLIAMS: My ankle was bruised, they  
22 x-rayed it at the hospital, negative. That was the  
23 impact from crashing into the other side of the, where  
24 we were previously sitting, before the boat flipped.  
25 And then I had superficial bruising and cuts on my

1 hands, on my ankle, my chest, on both sides of my  
2 chest, the underside of both arms, a knot on my, the  
3 left side of my forehead, a cut on my left shin, and  
4 the two worse cuts which weren't bad at all were the  
5 one on my left skin and the underside of my right hand.

6 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And where was the window,  
7 the window you pushed open, do you recall, you are  
8 upside down, do you recall where on the boat that might  
9 have been?

10 MR. WILLIAMS: No. I just, I don't, no.

11 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And when you first popped  
12 up and your head came out of the water, did you see any  
13 life jackets close to you?

14 MR. WILLIAMS: No, not that I can, not that I  
15 remember, no.

16 MR. TURRELL: Okay. How long was it before you  
17 saw a life ring, life preserver, some sort of --

18 MR. WILLIAMS: That would be when now I am on  
19 the capsized, standing on the capsized boat, I noticed  
20 some, two, maybe life jackets floating in the area.  
21 And I know that there was a gentleman, a younger  
22 gentleman who had one in his hands.

23 MR. TURRELL: And you said you swam about 10,  
24 15 feet back to the --

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, that was all.

1                   MR. TURRELL: -- over to the boat. Can you  
2 describe the water conditions on that swim back to the  
3 boat?

4                   MR. WILLIAMS: I don't remember it being cold.  
5 I, it didn't require any type of amazing effort for me  
6 to get back to the boat. It was choppy, and the waves  
7 were hitting my head, but, it, it wasn't, it wasn't bad  
8 enough for me not to get, to make it back to the boat  
9 without, without any problem.

10                  MR. TURRELL: Okay. While you were swimming,  
11 did you see, could you see other people in the water?

12                  MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, yes, I know that there  
13 was, there was at least two people in between Julie and  
14 I. I had to look pass them to find to Julie.

15                  MR. TURRELL: Okay. Mariette?

16                  MS. BURER: Have you done this before as far  
17 as taking a water taxi or is this the first time that  
18 you have taken a ride?

19                  MR. WILLIAMS: Several, several water taxis  
20 between the Harbor, the Harbor and Fells Point. This  
21 was the first trip from Fells Point to Fort McHenry.

22                  MS. BURER: Okay. Would you be able to  
23 accurately describe the conditions of the boat to the  
24 best of your recollection?

25                  MR. WILLIAMS: Sure. Sure. The boat from

1 Harbor Place to Fells Point was, it was a bigger boat,  
2 looked to be, looked to have more seating, looked, the  
3 interior looked to be well kept, plenty, plenty of  
4 space. That is about all I remember. And then the  
5 boat from Fells Point was noticeably different with a  
6 little bit of different seating style, close quarters  
7 with the people that were opposite you on the other  
8 side. Nothing I thought about at the time, but now  
9 that you have asked, it just kind of looked more along  
10 the lines of like your, I don't, the adjective of maybe  
11 like rinky dink type boat, is what comes to mind. It  
12 was definitely not the boat that was had come over on  
13 in the Harbor. But, I didn't think, I wasn't thinking  
14 of that when I boarded the vessel.

15 MS. BURER: Okay. Do you recall any kind of  
16 safety briefing on the way back to, or from Fells  
17 Point?

18 MR. WILLIAMS: On the way back to Fells Point  
19 from Fort McHenry?

20 MS. BURER: Yes.

21 MR. WILLIAMS: It, the first mate kind of did  
22 the same thing he did when he left from Fells Point to  
23 Fort McHenry, he was, he, he in a really joking manner,  
24 he asked all of us if we had our tickets and if our  
25 hands was stamped and he said it in a manner that he

1       didn't really, wasn't concerned of that and was  
2       interested in checking anybody's hands or anything.  
3       And it was, it was, he got a good laugh out of that  
4       going to the Fort and then he did the same thing  
5       returning, same, you know, really had a pleasure  
6       disposition, but, that, as far as I remember that was  
7       really all he said and we were on our way.

8               MS. BURER: Okay. Did he show you where the  
9       life jackets were?

10              MR. WILLIAMS: No. I have, I still don't know  
11       where the life jackets were.

12              MS. BURER: Okay. Okay. And do you consider  
13       yourself a good swimmer?

14              MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, not trained, just  
15       recreational, but yeah, I would think that I could, I  
16       am a decent swimmer, yeah.

17              MS. BURER: Okay. Again, as far as time  
18       table, the questions that Julia before, regarding the,  
19       once you got on the capsized boat, and your recovery,  
20       do you concur with what she said, or would you like  
21       to --

22              MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I remember not concurring  
23       with one of her time lines. I think it was the time  
24       line of being on the bigger ship that rescued us. But,  
25       I am not quite sure how she said it, though, so I will

1       just tell you my recollection.

2                   MS. BURER: Okay.

3                   MR. WILLIAMS: Ten minutes from where we were,  
4       there was a boat on the scene, about 10 minutes. I  
5       can't imagine it being more than 10 minutes. And I am  
6       going to guess, 20 to 25 minutes before we were on our  
7       way to, back to shore. I do remember some, a lot of  
8       what Julia said, I remember them really being concerned  
9       with people inside the boat as far as getting the ramp  
10      onto the boat and lifting it just enough to get  
11      somebody in there. The only person I know that was  
12      pulled out from that point was one, one of the two  
13      little girls. And they brought her right where Julia  
14      and I were, and made attempts to resuscitate her. As  
15      far as seeing anybody else brought onto the boat, I  
16      have no recollection of that. I certainly didn't see  
17      any, any people floating away or coming, or emerging  
18      from the boat. I didn't see any. And then 25 minutes  
19      or so on the boat, the rescue boat, until we headed  
20      back to shore. And then a fair amount of time in what  
21      looked like to be a makeshift triage center. Half  
22      hour, 45 minutes maybe even an hour I remember being  
23      attended to by all the people who were just so helpful  
24      and so nice. I was, I was, I was shaking, I was really  
25      shaking. I don't know if it was seizure like, but, I

1       was really shaking and they really hurt, embarrassingly  
2       enough, paying close attention to me at the triage  
3       center because I was just uncontrollably shaking. And  
4       I remember feeling warm, and I was trying to tell the  
5       people that were so kind to try to warm me up, and they  
6       had me by a heater, and I was telling them that I think  
7       this is more nervous energy than me actually being  
8       cold. And that is kind of how, when I am really in  
9       situations like that, I have a tendency, my nerves kind  
10      of go, and I think it was more nerves than anything  
11      else. But, I don't know, I don't know. But, they were  
12      so helpful in getting me, getting me squared away.

13               MS. BURER: As far, you went to the hospital  
14      with an ambulance?

15               MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

16               MS. BURER: And how long do you think that was  
17      from this point that you actually were, in the triage  
18      center, right?

19               MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

20               MS. BURER: To exiting in the back of the  
21      ambulance going to the hospital?

22               MR. WILLIAMS: Forty five minutes to an hour.

23               MS. BURER: Okay.

24               MR. WILLIAMS: That is how I remember it.

25               MS. BURER: Okay. And then I have one more



1 question.

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure.

3 MS. BURER: The captain, when you, guys,  
4 boarded, on the pontoon, did he acknowledge any of the  
5 passengers, said, did he address you all as the public  
6 at any time at all?

7 MR. WILLIAMS: At no time either way did we  
8 have any communication or hear any announcements from  
9 the captain. He seemed be very to himself. It was the  
10 first mate that was doing all the, all the talking, so,  
11 no, never, never heard a word from him.

12 MS. BURER: Okay. Even when you all boarded on  
13 the pontoon, he didn't have, did he have any eye  
14 contact or greetings?

15 MR. WILLIAMS: No. No, nothing.

16 MS. BURER: Okay.

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Absolutely nothing.

18 MS. BURER: Okay. That is it for me. Thank  
19 you.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure.

21 MR. TURRELL: Lieutenant Burnowski.

22 LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: Lieutenant Burnowski,  
23 Coast Guard.

24 When you said you opened up the, devised a  
25 plan for the window, how did the windows open?

1                   MR. WILLIAMS: The windows slide, I remember  
2                   them being about the size of a school bus, but they  
3                   certainly didn't open like a school bus style. They,  
4                   they just slide horizontally. It was just a small,  
5                   there wasn't even a handle, it was just kind of an out  
6                   way, the whole window was built where you could grab  
7                   any portion of one side and it slide, it slide without  
8                   much difficulty at all to open.

9                   LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: About how far open  
10                  would they slide open, enough for you to get into  
11                  there?

12                  MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, probably just about  
13                  enough for a normal size person to get through.

14                  LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: When you had heard that  
15                  they were going to turn off the engine and let the, you  
16                  know, wind or wave bat it out, about how long after  
17                  that time period until it actually go over its side?

18                  MR. WILLIAMS: Ten seconds, 15 seconds max.  
19                  It seemed quick, quickly after that.

20                  LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: That is it.

21                  MR. TURRELL: Andrew Murray.

22                  MR. MURRAY: (inaudible) just so you know who  
23                  I am, I am Director of National Seaport, which is what  
24                  taxi the pontoon --

25                  MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

1                   MR. MURRAY: And our, our Living Classroom --  
2                   in place now that we able to get some names -- I don't  
3                   know if you are from out of town, but, we will provide  
4                   a hotel.

5                   MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. We are local. So, thank  
6                   you.

7                   MR. MURRAY: Sorry, I came in late.

8                   Just back to the safety announcement, was  
9                   there any safety announcement when you left Harbor  
10                  Place or when you left Fells Point?

11                  MR. WILLIAMS: I remember leaving Harbor  
12                  Place, there was, there was, I don't remember the  
13                  details of the announcement, but I do remember the lady  
14                  kind of giving us all the bells and whistles so to  
15                  speak. It was, she definitely addressed everyone on  
16                  board. We didn't receive that from Fells Point to Fort  
17                  McHenry.

18                  MR. MURRAY: Okay. And when you departed the  
19                  fire boat dock, to head back towards Fells Point, what  
20                  was your recollection of the weather, the wind?

21                  MR. WILLIAMS: Absolutely mortified that we  
22                  had actually left, left. Immediately, I, it just, but,  
23                  again, I didn't say anything because I knew we were  
24                  dealing with professionals, so, I just was hopeful that  
25                  we would get across safely. But, I did, I did have

1       enough, enough foresight to sense that exactly what  
2       happened, was, what happened was going to happen, was  
3       potentially had happened. And that is when I gave  
4       Julia a very serious talk to, just I made sure that she  
5       was paying attention to me and that I wasn't kidding  
6       around in any manner for her to, to be ready for some  
7       type of disaster situation.

8               MR. MURRAY: So was the, when you left the  
9       dock, was it was very dark, lighting?

10              MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

11              MR. MURRAY: A lot of wind?

12              MR. WILLIAMS: Dark, I was, I was inside the  
13       boat now and I know, because it wasn't pleasant we had  
14       all the windows closed and I remember, my recollection  
15       is that no one had to close any windows, that the  
16       windows were already closed. We did have some open  
17       windows coming to Fort McHenry because the weather was  
18       different. So, I remember we were now insulated from  
19       the wind and the weather because we were closed in, so  
20       I can't really speak on the wind or the rain. I just  
21       know that I was looking out the window, and the  
22       conditions looked, looked frightening. I was scared.

23              MR. MURRAY: Okay. And then when, when you  
24       got, how long after you left the dock, any sense of  
25       time of from when the boat actually capsized?

1                   MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, no sense in real time,  
2                   just kind of sense of position to the port or the pier  
3                   that we had left and I don't remember it being far at  
4                   all. I remember it being, when the Navy ship came and  
5                   rescued us, I remember being a pretty substantial  
6                   distance away from where I remember we had flipped.

7                   MR. MURRAY: Right.

8                   MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

9                   MR. TURRELL: Let's just pause for a second.

10                  (Pause.)

11                  MR. TURRELL: Okay. We just turned to side B  
12                  and we will continue.

13                  MR. MURRAY: And then can you describe maybe  
14                  the 10 seconds, you know, and I am sorry if you have to  
15                  repeat this, the 10 seconds leading up to the boat  
16                  flipping as far as wave action, I think right when I  
17                  walked in you said the boat was actually turned, did it  
18                  do like a 360?

19                  MR. WILLIAMS: It didn't, it hadn't completed  
20                  a 360. It looked like it was in the process of doing  
21                  some type of circular path. I didn't, I didn't think,  
22                  I just, it looked to, it seemed to me that the captain  
23                  was really struggling to keep control. I didn't sense  
24                  that, I sensed more that he was just trying to keep the  
25                  boat afloat then, then on any particular course.

1                   MR. MURRAY: Right, okay. And as far as wave  
2                   action or --

3                   MR. WILLIAMS: Significant enough to, at one  
4                   point, we all got out of our seats and tried to  
5                   compensate for those, for the wave action because we  
6                   had lifted up on the side that, the side we, Julia and  
7                   I were sitting on, kind of went beneath the sea when  
8                   the other, and the other side lifted up, somewhat. And  
9                   a completely unidentifiable voice to me, asked if we  
10                  would all get out of seats and go to the side in  
11                  efforts to compensate. That is how much we were  
12                  rocking at that point.

13                  MR. MURRAY: Okay. And then the actual  
14                  flipping, you believe it was caused mainly by wind?  
15                  Was there any water in the boat?

16                  MR. WILLIAMS: I don't remember any water in  
17                  the boat at that point. I am not going to speculate on  
18                  what flipped the boat at the point. I know that we  
19                  flipped in the opposite direction that we, of that last  
20                  compensation attempt. Some of the people's injuries  
21                  and, and were almost certainly as a result of the boat  
22                  shifting back to the other direction, and we all  
23                  violently slammed the far wall that was previously  
24                  right where we were sitting. When we hit that, it was  
25                  significant. And that is when I started hear screams

1       and --

2               MR. MURRAY: Okay. That is all I have.

3               MR. TURRELL: Ensign?

4               ENSIGN COWEN: The only question I have is as  
5       far as communication, just throughout the whole trip  
6       when you got on the taxies, do you remember any  
7       communications between the mate or the master between  
8       anyone else either walkie talkie or anything like that?

9               MR. WILLIAMS: I remember at least one  
10       communication between the gentleman sitting at the  
11       picnic table area where we were going to board the boat  
12       leaving Fort McHenry, at least one communication  
13       between him and somebody as far as what kind, what kind  
14       of crowd do we have for this last boat ride. And then  
15       a gentleman asked, a gentleman who had noticed the  
16       storm asked about a time frame, when the boat would  
17       leave and he offered that. The only other  
18       communication I remember was when we were actually on  
19       the boat, the first mate was communicating, who I am  
20       just going to assume was the same gentleman that was  
21       sitting by the picnic table earlier, about how many  
22       people were on the boat, do you have a full boat, can  
23       you take a couple more because we have got six people  
24       walking down here now. And the first mate said, we can  
25       only take two. He said, okay, well, I will pick two

1 people out of those six to get on. Those are the only  
2 communications I recall.

3 ENSIGN COWEN: Okay.

4 MR. TURRELL: I just would like to make the  
5 boat turning over sequence a little more clearer. So,  
6 if you would just please with, were you were sitting on  
7 the starboard side of the boat, the right side of the  
8 boat, is that correct?

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

10 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And the first time the  
11 boat, the boat was rocking and then the boat took one  
12 or more dramatic turns.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

14 MR. TURRELL: And you were moving, the first  
15 time that, that you had to get up and move, which end  
16 of the boat was vertical, was it your side or was it  
17 the other side?

18 MR. WILLIAMS: The first time I got out of my  
19 seat, I don't recall, I don't recall the, the shifting  
20 of the boat was not, was not so bad that any  
21 compensation was needed or anything in that respect. I  
22 just remembered standing up, it kind of like instinct,  
23 like it might be a good idea to stand up and get my  
24 balance. But, then I remembered being told to not,  
25 not, just get back in your seat. That would be the



1 best thing to do, get back. So I did, I got back in my  
2 seat. In real time again, I am not quite sure how much  
3 time elapsed. It might have been 30 seconds to a  
4 minute, if I had to guess, that now, now the boat was  
5 rocking at a much, much more significant, with much  
6 more significance, enough that the far end of the boat,  
7 or opposite our end was now just, we were a 45 degree  
8 angle and we pulled ourselves to that side of the boat,  
9 almost like we were walking up hill and just braced  
10 ourselves against that wall in an effort to compensate.

11 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't remember there being  
13 several rocks back and forth. I just remember that one  
14 big one, an effort to compensate, it goes back the  
15 other way, we all hit the other wall, and we are  
16 turned, we roll.

17 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And to the best of your  
18 knowledge, do you place the time of the accident  
19 because of your cell phone, what would you say the time  
20 of the accident was?

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Four, four, oh, three, four,  
22 oh, four.

23 MR. TURRELL: Okay. And --

24 (Pause.)

25 MR. TURRELL: Do you by any chance have a

1 receipt of the first boat that you took that --

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, we have our tickets with  
3 the, you can clearly make out not only the, the water  
4 taxi information, but I believe in red there is some  
5 type of serial number that can be made out on both  
6 tickets, and we have those.

7 MR. TURRELL: Okay.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, back at our place.

9 MR. TURRELL: Okay. I would like to see those.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. I will ask you for  
11 those.

12 Did Seaport Taxi give you a receipt of any  
13 kind?

14 MR. WILLIAMS: No.

15 MR. TURRELL: Okay. I have no further  
16 questions. Anyone else?

17 MS. BURER: The mate, I know that I asked you  
18 about the captain, did he acknowledge the passengers  
19 coming onboard, what about the mate, did he, was there  
20 eye contact communication, verbal communication when  
21 passengers were boarding?

22 MR. WILLIAMS: No. No. No eye contact, his  
23 disposition was great, just, with the two jokes before  
24 we left, I thought you could tell he was a nice guy  
25 with a good disposition, but, he did not greet me

1       either direction. And he did not make eye contact with  
2       me at all. No.

3               MS. BURER: Did he actually count the people  
4       that were on board or how did he know that he would  
5       only be able to take two more passengers?

6               MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, he absolutely did not  
7       perform any type of head count.

8               MS. BURER: Okay.

9               MR. WILLIAMS: He looked like he was just  
10       maybe he had done this enough times where he looked, he  
11       looked in area to see what, how many people could fit  
12       there, and when he did that, somebody, somebody else  
13       must have heard this communication about people,  
14       because everyone kind of started sliding over to see  
15       how much room can we make for a couple more folks.  
16       When he saw that, he said, no more than two.

17              MS. BURER: Okay. That is fine.

18              MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

19              LIEUTENANT BURNOWSKI: One other questions, I  
20       am just trying to place, do you remember any of,  
21       Lieutenant Burnowski from Coast Guard. Any other places  
22       that people were sitting? We understand the couple  
23       next to you, to your, I guess, to your left?

24              MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I could identify several  
25       other people and their locations on the boat. The

1 couple to our left, who we have spoken about. Now, I  
2 can give you some people that were across from me. I  
3 don't know who was sitting on the side, next to Julia,  
4 and down that row. I know that, I know the two  
5 gentlemen that took that the last two seats on the boat  
6 were up near the front. I know that right across from  
7 me was an older gentleman, I am going to guess gray  
8 hair, probably 65 and what I am going to assume is his  
9 wife. And then starting towards the front of the boat  
10 from him, we have a young couple that just from the  
11 news, the couple that is missing were, I believe, right  
12 next to those two people. And then I remember some  
13 older people next to them. I remember the family with  
14 the children, on the, across the aisle from me and near  
15 the front of the boat. The gentleman, again, there are  
16 some pictures that have come out, I recognize, he was  
17 dressed in all khaki, with khaki pants and a moustache,  
18 I am going to guess 50 years old and his wife were also  
19 almost directly across from me and to my right, near  
20 towards the front. I did notice his pants were ripped  
21 down the pants leg when he was rescued. If that helps  
22 at all.

23 MS. BURER: The wife of the older gentleman,  
24 was she in the corner then, across from you? Would she  
25 be like the first seat in back?

1 MR. WILLIAMS: I can't, I don't know.

2 MS. BURER: Okay. Okay. So you have the older  
3 couple.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I know the older  
5 gentleman, I know exactly that he was almost right  
6 directly across from me.

7 MS. BURER: Right, okay. And then the younger  
8 couple that was towards the front.

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

10 MS. BURER: Right?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, there was a brown haired  
12 girl, longer brown haired girl that sat, she was, she  
13 was an attractive female and I had just, you know,  
14 taken, just noticed that she was sitting there, and I  
15 just, I knew what she was wearing and everything,  
16 because I looked at her.

17 MS. BURER: Right. And then there was another  
18 couple sitting next to them?

19 MR. WILLIAMS: There is a couple in there,  
20 with the, the gentleman being in a khaki coat and khaki  
21 pants. The reason I know where that gentleman was  
22 sitting is because I just noticed he looked like  
23 somebody that Julia and I knew.

24 MS. BURER: Okay.

25 MR. WILLIAMS: And before we left port, when

1 we were sitting down, I told Julia that, don't you  
2 think this gentleman looks like a man we know named  
3 Bill Trenis, and she, so, I knew exactly where he was.

4 MS. BURER: Okay. And then next to the woman  
5 and the children.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Further up near the front of  
7 the boat, and there certainly could have been some  
8 people now in between the family with children and the  
9 people that I just pointed out.

10 MS. BURER: Right.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: There certainly was room for  
12 plenty of people there, but, towards the front of the  
13 boat was the, in no particular order, the husband, wife  
14 and the three children. I don't know in what order  
15 they were sitting.

16 MS. BURER: Okay. Do you recall any people  
17 sitting on your bench, on the right hand side?

18 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't. I don't.

19 MS. BURER: Okay.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't beyond Julia, I just  
21 know the four of us were sitting there and then I don't  
22 know.

23 MS. BURER: Right. I understand.

24 MR. TURRELL: Any sense of how many people may  
25 have been sitting near the captain?

1                   MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, several, just 10, 10, in  
2                   the neighborhood of 10.

3                   MS. BURER: Ten on the right hand side, right.  
4                   Okay.

5                   All right, did you notice anything regarding  
6                   the back at all, of the boat?

7                   MR. WILLIAMS: Julie had, I didn't remember  
8                   this until we sat down and talked about this last  
9                   night, and when I was kind of planning in my head about  
10                  how to potentially get out of this boat, Julie  
11                  mentioned last night that there was a door in, towards  
12                  the rear of the boat where we were sitting that  
13                  possibly I could have just opened this door, and  
14                  escaped, but, and when she said that, I remembered it  
15                  being a small door there that was shut. And so, I  
16                  remember that, I remember that there was a door in the  
17                  back of the boat.

18                  MS. BURER: Okay. Do you remember any kind of  
19                  description of condition of the door?

20                  MR. WILLIAMS: Small, thin, I remember silver  
21                  door knob, if I am not mistaken. And that is, yeah,  
22                  that is about it. Yeah, I thought potentially when,  
23                  when Julie pointed out the door, I have no idea, but, I  
24                  just remember potentially thinking that was the door  
25                  locked. I didn't know. It looked like the type of

1 door knob that maybe able to lock.

2 MS. BURER: Right.

3 MR. WILLIAMS: But, I have no idea. My  
4 thoughts about, as far as exiting was to get out  
5 through the windows.

6 MS. BURER: Okay.

7 MS. LAUER: My recollection of the door, I  
8 think that it had like a latch.

9 MS. BURER: Okay.

10 MS. LAUER: As far as I remember. And yeah, I  
11 remember it being a thin, a narrow door.

12 MS. BURER: Okay.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: I remember looking just out of  
14 interest, just looking at the engine of the boat and I  
15 noticed that they appeared to be what were like  
16 outboard type engines, Hondas, they were silver in  
17 color. When the boat, when the boat was upside down in  
18 the harbor and we came out, I remember when I first  
19 started to try and get onto the boat, I remember the  
20 pontoon part was just sharp and it was like sea shells  
21 and gravel and the whole feel. I am thinking a lot of  
22 my chest abrasives were from being pulled out of the  
23 boat, because it was really, noticeably like ouch, you  
24 know, be careful.

25 MS. BURER: Right, right. Okay. That is all



1       that I have.

2                   MR. WOODY: Bill Woody. I want to, do you  
3       want to go off the record now?

4                   Okay.

5                   MR. TURRELL: This will conclude our interview  
6       on the tape and we would like to thank you very much.  
7       Is there anything you would like to add, Robert?

8                   MR. WILLIAMS: No.

9                   MR. TURRELL: Julia?

10                  MS. LAUER: No.

11                  MR. TURRELL: Okay. This concludes the  
12       interview. Please acknowledge this was recorded.

13                  MR. WILLIAMS: This was recorded, yes.

14                  MS. LAUER: Yes, it was recorded.

15                  MR. TURRELL: Thank you.

16                  (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)